

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LILONG 00221 131715Z

43

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAM-01 IGA-02 AID-05 EB-07 /082 W

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R 121308Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY LILONGWE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 093

INFO AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L LILONGWE 0221

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, SHUM, MI

SUBJECT: BANDA EXPELS GOANS

1. SMALL GOAN COMMUNITY IN MALAWI OF ABOUT 100 FAMILIES (ABOUT 500 PEOPLE), 60-70 PERCENT OF WHOM HAVE UK PASSPORTS, RECEIVED 72-HOUR "PROHIBITED IMMIGRANT" EXPULSION NOTICES MAY 7. DEMARCHES BY UK HIGH COMMISSION AND ASIAN WITH ACCESS TO LIFE PRESIDENT BANDA RESULTED IN EXTENSION OF EXPULSION ORDER TO JUNE 30.

2. SOME THREE WEEKS AGO INCIDENT OCCURRED IN GOAN CLUB IN BLANTYRE RESULTING IN ARREST OF CLUB MEMBER WHO ALLEGEDLY ASKED THAT RADIO BROADCAST OF BANDA SPEECH BE TURNED OFF. FOLLOWING INCIDENT MALAWI SPECIAL BRANCH POLICE ROUNDED UP ENTIRE MEMBERSHIP OF CLUB (VIRTUALLY ALL GOANS IN MALAWI) IN BLANTYRE FOR QUESTIONING. ALL ADULT MALE MEMBERS THEREAFTER DETAINED AT PRISON AT MULANJE (SOME 70 MILES FROM BLANTYRE) FOR 16 DAYS UNDER  
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PAGE 02 LILONG 00221 131715Z

WHAT DESCRIBED AS VERY TRYING CONDITIONS. SEVEN

EUROPEAN MEMBERS OF CLUB ALSO DETAINED BUT SOON RELEASED.

3. UNDERSTAND THAT ALL DETAINEES, SAVE ONE WHO ACTUALLY SPARKED INCIDENT AND FEW MALAWIANS WHO HAD WORKED FOR CLUB, HAVE NOW BEEN RELEASED. HOWEVER, RELEASES WERE FOLLOWED BY 72 HOUR EXPULSION ORDERS. ASIAN WITH GOOD ACCESS TO PRESIDENT BANDA PLEADED TO NO AVAIL TO HAVE EXPULSIONS RESCINDED, MAKING CASE THAT PUBLIC REACTION WOULD BE BAD AND THAT GOAN COMMUNITY WAS QUIET, LAW-ABIDING AND HARD WORKING. THIS DEMARCHE AND ONE OF UK HIGH COMMISSION SUCCESSFUL IN GETTING DATE EXTENDED TO JUNE 30. UK HIGH COMMISSION MAINLY CONCERNED ABOUT STATUS CA ARRIVAL IN UK OF SOME 350-400 REFUGEES.

4. COMMENT: THESE LATEST ARBITRARY EXPULSIONS, THIS TIME HITTING ENTIRE COMMUNITY, FURTHER ATTEST TO INCREASING XENOPHOBIA AND PARANOIA OF BANDA REGIME. PARTY SECGEN MUWALO AND SPECIAL BRANCH CHIEF GWEDE THOUGHT TO BE ACTING LARGELY ON THEIR OWN, FEEDING AGING PRESIDENT INFORMATION TO SUIT ENDS ABOUT WHICH WE CAN ONLY SPECULATE. ONE GOOD PROBABILITY IS THAT INNER GROUP HEADED BY MUWALO IS ACTING INCREASINGLY TO ENSURE RETENTION OF POWER IN POST-BANDA SUCCESSION. THIS MAY WELL ALSO BE COMPLEMENTED BY SIMPLE GREED, E.G. GOAN PROPERTIES AND POSSESSIONS OF ALL KINDS WILL GO AT FIRE SALE PRICES AND JOBS WILL BE OPEN FOR MALAWIANS.

5. EXPULSIONS OF GOANS HARD TO EXPLAIN ON ANY REASONABLE BASIS AS THEY WERE QUIET MINORITY WHO GOT ALONG WELL AND FILLED MANY OF THE IMPORTANT WHITE-COLLAR JOBS. THERE IS SOME SPECULATION THAT THEIR PORTUGUESE CONNECTIONS (I.E. CONNECTIONS WITH MOZAMBIQUE) WERE FEARED. WE HAVE LEARNED THAT GOAN CLUB HAD BEEN UNDER SURVILLANCE FOR SOME TIME.

6. ADVERSE PUBLICITY WILL SURELY FOLLOW REFUGEES' ARRIVAL IN UK, PARTICULARLY COMING ON TOP OF WELL ORCHESTRATED PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN EXPOSING MALAWI'S HARSH POLICY TOWARD JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES. HOWEVER, BANDA, WHO SEEMS TO DELIGHT IN SCORNFULLY REFERRING TO CRITICISM  
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PAGE 03 LILONG 00221 131715Z

AS "BENEATH CONTEMPT", IS NOT EXPECTED TO CHANGE COURSE. WE SUSPECT THE AGING DICTATOR IS NO LONGER COMPLETELY ON TOP OF THINGS AND IS INCREASINGLY RELIANT ON MUWALO AND GWEDE FOR INFORMATION AND COUNSEL. THUS, WE EXPECT PRESENT "1984" ATMOSPHERE TO CONTINUE. JUST YESTERDAY (MAY 11) U.S. PROFESSOR AT BUNDA COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE (AID-FUNDED) WAS DECLARED PROHIBITED IMMIGRANT AND GIVEN 72 HOURS TO LEAVE. AS USUAL, NO REASONS GIVEN. SEPTEL FOLLOWS.

STEVENSON

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